

# Injury Prevention Strategic Plan

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*For Nevada*

**Nevada State Health Division  
Bureau of Health Statistics, Planning and  
Emergency Response  
Updated March 2010**



## INTRODUCTION

Injury is a public health problem that can be controlled, to an extent, like many other public health problems such as infectious diseases, cancer, or heart disease. Injury prevention involves preventing injuries as well as minimizing the negative consequences of injuries that do occur. The primary goal of the Nevada Injury Prevention Program is to reduce injuries, disabilities, and deaths due to injuries in Nevada. In the year 2006, unintentional injuries were the leading cause of death for ages one through 44 in Nevada.

Nevada's Injury Surveillance and Prevention Program began in 1999 when Nevada received the State-Based Core Injury Grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Since then, Nevada has made great strides in building a solid Injury Prevention Program. An Injury Prevention Task Force was established several years ago, and we now have thirteen committed members who meet on a quarterly basis. A half-time Injury Biostatistician was hired. Nevada has vastly improved in their ability of data collection and understanding to link databases and gain meaningful information from them. Four injury data reports, *An Overview of Injuries in Nevada*, *Nevada's Injury Data Surveillance Project*, *An Analysis of the Injury Surveillance Data System in Nevada*, and *Overview of Injuries* have been compiled and published. The Injury Prevention Program has conducted several public education campaigns. Thousands of promotional items have been distributed at health fairs and to community agencies, school children and others in the state. Additionally, supplemental funds have been received and used for Violence Against Women Prevention and Youth Suicide Prevention.

For the purpose of planning for the future of Nevada's Injury Prevention Program, the Injury Prevention Task Force developed a strategic plan that includes the following five areas: infrastructure, program, data collection and analysis, funding, and legislative/policy. This strategic plan will address all of these topics and list specific goals, objectives, and activities for each.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

Nevada's Injury Prevention Program is located in the Bureau of Health Statistics, Planning and Emergency Response, within the Nevada State Health Division. Currently there are two staff members working within the program: a Program Coordinator and a Biostatistician. The Program Coordinator (Health Resource Analyst II) directs the overall operation of the project; responsible for overseeing the implementation of project activities, coordination with other agencies, development of materials, and is the responsible authority for ensuring necessary reports/documentation are submitted to CDC. The Biostatistician will continue to improve data collection and analysis of injuries in Nevada. This position will link injury-related databases when appropriate, analyze injury data to determine priorities for future action, and report and disseminate injury data, including the annually CDC requested State Injury Indicators.

The Injury Prevention Program has grown dramatically over the past five years and now includes a diverse and dedicated Task Force. The Task Force has provided guidance to the Injury Prevention Coordinator and has played an integral part in expanding and improving the Injury Prevention Program. In 2004, the structure of the Task Force was formalized by expanding membership, approving bylaws, and electing officers. The Injury Prevention Task Force meets at least four times a year and includes members from the following agencies: Office of Emergency Medical Systems, Office of Suicide Prevention, Office of Traffic Safety, Department of Transportation, Washoe County Health District, University of Nevada School of Medicine, UMC Trauma Center, Southern Nevada Health District, Department of Education, Safe Kids Clark County, Safe Kids Washoe County, and Safe Community Partnership. The Task Force determines the needs of the state through data collection and analysis, and will now ensure the Strategic Plan is implemented over the next five years.

**Goal: Continue support of the Nevada Injury Prevention Program.**

Objectives

- Retain an Injury Prevention Coordinator on staff at the Bureau of Health Statistics, Planning and Emergency Response.
- Retain a coordinated Injury Prevention Task Force through the Nevada State Health Division.
  1. Meet at least four times per year.
  2. Recruit members as needed up to fifteen.
  3. Provide guidance to the Injury Prevention Program.
- Create an Injury Prevention list serve for Nevada, which will increase networking and communication throughout the state.
  1. Make a list of community and government agencies dealing with injury prevention.
  2. Update the list serve as needed.
  3. Disseminate to all agencies, providers, etc.

**DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS**

Successfully controlling injuries requires information to guide our educational, preventive, and treatment efforts. This critical information includes where and when injuries occur, the causes of injury, who is at highest risk, how injuries are inflicted, what behaviors are associated with injury, and the outcomes of injury. Nevada has vastly improved in their ability and understanding to link databases and gain meaningful information from them. Four injury data reports, *An Overview of Injuries in Nevada*, *Nevada's Injury Data Surveillance Project*, *An Analysis of the Injury Surveillance Data System in Nevada*, and *Overview of Injuries* have been compiled and published throughout the state. In addition, The Injury Prevention Program will continue to employ a half-time Injury Biostatistician who will be responsible for improving data collection and analysis of injuries in Nevada. This position will link injury-related databases,

analyze injury data to determine priorities for future action, produce routine reports, and disseminate injury data, including the annual State Injury Indicators requested by the CDC.

**Goal: Continue to improve data collection and analysis of injuries in Nevada.**

Objectives

- Retain a half-time Biostatistician on staff in the Injury Prevention Program.
- Link injury related databases.
- Analyze injury data to determine priorities for future action.
- Continue reporting on Nevada's injuries and disseminate data reports.
- Implement on a consistent basis the use of external cause of injury codes (E-codes) on hospital discharge data in Nevada hospitals.
  1. Work with various government agencies to implement mandatory E-coding by hospitals through either legislative or policy mandate.
- Standardize and centralize emergency department data into a statewide database for Nevada.
  1. Work with various government agencies to standardize and centralize emergency department data into a statewide database through either legislative or policy mandate.

## **PROGRAM**

In order to decrease morbidity and mortality associated with injury, Nevadans need to be aware that injuries can be prevented. Over the past five years, the Injury Prevention Program has been trying to raise awareness by educating the public through media campaigns, at health fairs and other community events, and by providing educational and promotional items to the public. Nevada's Injury Prevention Program will continue to increase public awareness that injury prevention is a public health issue by conducting public education media campaigns based on collective data. In addition, the Injury Prevention Coordinator, in collaboration with the Injury Prevention Task Force, will collaborate with government and community service agencies to promote safety awareness among specific population groups.

**Goal: Decrease morbidity and mortality associated with unintentional and intentional deaths due to injury in Nevada and meet the Healthy People 2010 objectives.**

Objectives

- Increase public awareness that injury prevention is a public health issue.
  1. Conduct public education media campaigns based on collective data.
  2. Educate the public on injury prevention at professional meetings, community forums, and other events.
  3. Support campaigns executed by Task Force member agencies.

4. Compile, publish, and disseminate injury surveillance publications as derived from the Injury Prevention Program.
- The Injury Prevention Coordinator in cooperation with the Injury Prevention Task Force will collaborate with government and community service agencies to promote safety awareness among specific population groups.
    1. Participate in numerous health related activities with various organizations throughout the state .
  - Explore collaborative resource sharing among state, county, and other agencies.

## **FUNDING**

Lack of funding continues to restrict the Injury Prevention Program. The Core Injury Prevention Grant received from the CDC five years ago provided Nevada with enough funding to start an Injury Prevention Program, but now the lack of additional funding prevents the program from expanding. For the past five years Nevada has received around \$116,000 per year for Injury prevention from the CDC. This funding has enabled Nevada to start its first Injury Prevention Program, hire staff, form a Task Force, link databases, publish reports, and develop a strategic plan. These accomplishments should help us to secure additional funding because we can show real data to the legislature and to other organizations. In order for the Injury Prevention Program to expand and sustain, more funding needs to be obtained. Over the next several years the program will seek to secure other public and/or private funding for injury prevention and surveillance.

**Goal: Establish and sustain long term funding of the Injury Prevention Program.**

### Objectives

- Receive funding for Phase 2 of the Core Injury Prevention and Surveillance grant from the CDC.
- Explore opportunities for programmatic funding through Nevada's general fund.
- Secure other public and private funding for injury prevention and surveillance.

## **LEGISLATIVE/POLICY**

Policy change regarding injury prevention can be a very powerful tool in reducing the burden of injury in our nation. In 2004, a new child safety seat regulation became effective in Nevada, which should decrease the number of childhood injuries and deaths due to motor vehicle crashes. Nevada's Injury Prevention Program would like to help initiate more policy changes in the future to reduce injuries and create better data for the state. With better data, the Task Force will be able to establish concise priorities based on the burden of injury in the state. Nevada's Injury Prevention Program is currently interested in improving injury surveillance by changing policy either through the Legislature or through the State Board of Health.

**Goal: Establish statewide legislative/policy support for injury prevention and surveillance.**

*Objectives*

- Develop legislative/policy support for injury prevention and surveillance.
  1. Track Legislative opportunities and bill draft requests.
  2. Educate legislators on Injury Prevention.
  3. Make recommendations to legislators regarding injury policies.
- Expand hospital support for injury prevention and surveillance.
- Establish action and policy suggestions for state agencies, boards, and organizations.
- Create an internal tracking mechanism of proposed legislative actions so we can assist in directing legislative support in favor of injury prevention.